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General Assembly

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Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction
New York, 16-19 June 2014

Format and annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

I. Format

1. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction is convened pursuant to paragraphs 199 and 200 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, within its mandate established by resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78.

2. In resolution 68/70, paragraph 200, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene three meetings of the Working Group, to take place from 1 to 4 April and 16 to 19 June 2014, and from 20 to 23 January 2015.

Chairmanship, participation and methods of work

3. The meeting will be co-chaired by the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Palitha T. B. Kohona, and a Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Liesbeth Lijnzaad. Both were appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries.

4. As decided by the General Assembly in paragraph 79 of its resolution 60/30, the meeting of the Working Group shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and all parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with others invited as observers in accordance with past practice of the United Nations, and may be conducted in closed sessions, as appropriate.

5. The Co-Chairs have prepared the present format to facilitate the work of the Working Group.

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Agenda and annotated agenda

6. The Co-Chairs have prepared a provisional agenda for the meeting (A/AC.276/L.13). To assist delegations in their preparations, the Co-Chairs have also compiled an annotated provisional agenda and organization of work (see sect. II).

Outcome of the meeting of the Working Group

7. In paragraph 198 of its resolution 68/70, the General Assembly requested the Working Group, within its mandate established by resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78, and in order to prepare for the decision to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, to make recommendations to the Assembly on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention. To this end, the Assembly decided that the Working Group should meet for three meetings of four days each, with the possibility of the Assembly deciding that additional meetings would be held, if needed, within existing resources.

8. The Co-Chairs will prepare a summary of discussions and transmit it to the President of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly.

II. Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

Monday, 16 June 2014

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

9. The meeting of the Working Group will be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative.

10. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

11. The Working Group will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda of the meeting, as contained in document A/AC.276/L.13.

Item 3. Organization of work

12. The Working Group will be invited to consider the organization of work of the meeting, as contained in the present document.

13. The schedule of agenda items is indicative and may change depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 4. General statements

14. Delegations will have an opportunity to deliver statements of a general nature concerning the issues under consideration by the Working Group. Owing to time constraints, and bearing in mind the opportunity for delegations to make more detailed comments under subsequent agenda items, delegations are invited to limit

their general statements to five minutes and to make them available in writing to facilitate the work of the interpreters.

3-6 p.m.

Item 5. Consideration, in order to prepare for the decision to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, of the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, within the mandate established by the Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78, with a view to making recommendations to the Assembly

15. Under this item, delegations will be invited to consider, in order to prepare for the decision to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention, within the mandate established by the Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78, with a view to making recommendations to the Assembly.

16. In accordance with paragraph 201 of resolution 68/70, in order to inform the deliberations of the Working Group, Member States were invited, by letter dated 16 April 2014, to submit their views by 23 May 2014 on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention, in order to update the informal working document dated 11 March 2014, and for circulation by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to Member States as an additional compilation of the views of Member States, no later than three weeks before the second meeting of the Working Group.

17. In the interest of structured discussions, delegations will be invited to discuss the following issues, in sequence and throughout the meeting:

(a) The scope and parameters of an international instrument under the Convention;

(b) The feasibility of such an international instrument.

18. In this regard, delegations will be invited to focus during the afternoon meeting on item 5 (a) on the scope and parameters of an instrument. Building on the discussions that were held at the meeting of the Working Group from 1 to 4 April 2014, it is proposed that delegations could address the following issues under item 5 (a):

(i) Overall objective and starting point;

(ii) Legal framework for an international instrument;

(iii) Relationship to other instruments;

(iv) Guiding approaches;

(v) Guiding principles;

(vi) Scope ratione personae;

(vii) Scope ratione loci;

(viii) Scope ratione materiae;

(ix) Enabling elements and means of implementation.

Tuesday, 17 June 2014

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 5. (continued)

19. Delegations will continue their deliberations on item 5 (a) on the scope and parameters of an instrument.

3-6 p.m.

Item 5. (continued)

20. Delegations will continue their deliberations on item 5 (a) on the scope and parameters of an instrument.

Wednesday, 18 June 2014

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 5. (continued)

21. Delegations will continue their deliberations on agenda item 5 (a) on the scope and parameters of an instrument.

3-6 p.m.

Item 5. (continued)

22. Delegations will start their deliberations on item 5 (b) on the feasibility of the instrument. In that regard, building on the discussions at the meeting of the Working Group that was held from 1 to 4 April 2014, it is proposed that delegations focus on the desirability, the political, legal and technical feasibility, and the form of an international instrument.

Thursday, 19 June 2014

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 5. (concluded)

23. Delegations will continue their deliberations on item 5 (b) on the feasibility of an instrument.

3-6 p.m.

Item 6. Other matters

24. The Working Group will consider any other matters that delegations may wish to discuss.

Item 7. Closure of the meeting